



Dear Community Friends,

There are a number of items we want to cover this newsletter, so you will note that it is two pages instead of the usual one.

Warm Weather Security Tips

This week marks the beginning of Summer (regardless of what the weather feels like) and the end of the school year. Many of our youth will be out and about enjoying a summer respite. Many of us will take some time away from home and travel.

Summer time is also when we tend to see an increase in residential burglaries. Often times, we open our windows for ventilation and then leave the home, leaving an open window as an invitation to a burglar. We also work in our yards while sometimes leaving our garages and storage sheds open and often out of our sight. Open garages and sheds also present an opportunity for a burglar. Further, we also need to consider that many of our garages provide access to the interior of the home.

With these things in mind, we'd like to offer some warm weather security reminders to reduce your vulnerability to burglary and theft. Please share these tips with your neighbors.

Close And Lock Windows; Limit How Far They Can Be Opened

- Always close and lock windows whenever away from the home. While we understand the desire to ventilate the home when you are not there because of the heat, be aware that you make your home vulnerable and you create an opportunity for the burglar.
- If you want to leave windows open enough for ventilation, but not wide enough for someone to gain entry, use a dowel for sliding glass windows cut to allow the window to open no more than 4". Some windows have stops installed on the inside track, which help prevent the window from being opened too far. However, some of these are not very sturdy and can be opened given the right amount of force. Please consider augmenting those stops with track locks or with a simpler dowel. For double hung windows, consider sash pins to better secure the windows from being opened.

Lock Your Doors

- Install good quality dead bolt locks with at least a 1" throw on all exterior doors.
- Replace the existing screws in the strike plates with screws that are 3"-4" long. When a door is forced open, it is the jamb that splinters and gives, not the door. By securing the strike plates with 3"-4" long screws, you secure the jamb to the wall stud. When the deadbolt lock is engaged, the bolt goes into the jamb and the jamb is now secured to the framing of the home. This makes it much more difficult for a person to force open a properly locked door.

Working In The Yard

- If working in the yard in the back of the home, do not leave your front door open and/or unlocked. If you have a garage or storage unit that is out of your line of sight, be mindful of what is in plain view to anyone who may be walking or driving by. Close those doors as well.

Secure Tools and Ladders

- Secure all tools, including ladders, so they cannot be used to gain entry into your home or that of a neighbor.

If Away For An Extended Period Of Time

- If you're going to be away for an extended time, ask a friend or trusted neighbor to watch your home. If they see suspicious activity while you are gone, they will know to call 911 for you.
- Have the Post Office hold your mail and hold your newspaper delivery.
- Make it appear that your home is occupied. You can do this by having timers set within the home that will turn lights on and off. You may want to consider timers for your exterior lights or photocell attachments (which activate when it gets dark and go off when it becomes light).

Also, Do Not Leave Personal Belongings Unattended

- Whether they are in a shopping cart or on a picnic blanket, always maintain positive control over your belongings. Never leave personal belongings unattended in your vehicle. Seattle has a high rate of theft of personal property from vehicles, particularly at public parks.

Night Out Reminder

Just a reminder, the **2010 National Night Out Against Crime is Tuesday, August 3rd**. "Night Out" is a national Crime Prevention event designed to heighten crime prevention awareness, increase neighborhood support in anti-crime efforts, and unite our communities. If you have not already done so, please go to our website at <http://www.seattle.gov/police> and click on the Night Out box to sign up for this summertime Block Party as we celebrate Crime Free Neighborhoods. Don't forget, we have also created a presence for Night Out on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SeattleNightOut>). This will allow you to stay up to date with information before the event, receive crime prevention tips, share your ideas with others, and upload photos.

From our friends at the Department of Neighborhoods; if you are considering doing a Small Sparks Grant to help you do a community building event, you will need to get the application in soon. There is roughly a six week turn around. Follow the links below to get more information on Night Out and the Small Sparks Grant. <http://www.seattle.gov/police/Nightout/default.htm>
<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/smallsparks.htm>

Neighborhood Safety Forums

If you are a block watch captain living in the Central Area, Greater Duwamish area or South Seattle, or interested in getting a block watch going for your area, your Seattle Police Department Crime Prevention Coordinators invite you to join us at one of the upcoming Neighborhood Safety Forums.

Locations, Dates and Times

Tuesday, July 6th, 6-8pm Cleveland High School cafeteria, 5511 15 Ave S., 98108

Tuesday, July 13th, 6-8pm Dunlap Elementary School cafeteria, 4525 S. Cloverdale ST, 98118

Tuesday, July 20th, 6-8pm Garfield High School cafeteria, 400 23rd Ave, 98122

Wednesday, July 28th, 6-8pm Mount Baker Community Club, 2811 Mount Rainier Dr S, 98144

If you cannot make the Neighborhood Safety Forum for your area, you are welcome to attend one of the others.

These forums are opportunities for captains of active block watch groups to interact and network with their fellow block watch captains. They are also opportunities for those block watch captains whose groups have been dormant to help get them rejuvenated. Further, we want to invite all who are interested in getting Block Watch going in their neighborhoods to join us and gather information and resources to positively impact their public safety in their community. More information regarding these Forums is forthcoming.

Seattle City Light Program - Free Installation of Energy and Water Conservation Devices

Seattle City Light's Powerful Neighborhoods program, piloting in South Seattle, is making it easier than ever for residents to install energy and water saving technologies in their homes. Since April 2010, Powerful Neighborhoods program staff have visited over a thousand Seattle homes to install free energy efficiency and water conservation measures. Program staff also install a free smoke detector while they are in the home.

The Powerful Neighborhoods outreach method includes door-to-door canvassing. Those of you active as Block Watch captains may be asked about the staff. All of them have undergone a drug screening and a criminal background check. They will be wearing uniforms and carrying photo ID.

Installations are done by staff members who collectively speak over twelve languages and who have been recruited from South Seattle communities. With bilingual installers and outreach staff reaching out to customers directly, City Light hopes to increase participation and better explain energy saving options.

The Powerful Neighborhoods program is currently serving seven zip codes in South Seattle: 98144, 98118, 98178, 98108, 98126, 98106, and 98134. To qualify, you must live in a single-family home or 2 to 6-unit building or townhouse. If you would like to participate in the program please call the Powerful Neighborhoods multilingual phone line at 206-449-1132 or e-mail SCL_Install@Seattle.Gov to schedule an appointment. All products and installation services are free.

Please share this e-mail with your distribution lists. Thank you for all you do for your neighborhoods!

Captain David Emerick, South Precinct Commander Captain Jim Dermody, East Precinct Commander
Mark Solomon, Crime Prevention Coordinator